

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

10:00 AM

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GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Responsive)

One: God who spoke to Mary and Elizabeth,

Many: Speak your Word to us now.

One: God who blessed them with new life,

Many: Bless us with great expectation.

One: God who gave them songs of praise to sing,

Many: Receive our joyful praise.

One: God who loves beyond all measure,

All: We are here to worship you with hearts full of love.

ANTHEM: *Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night*

Stevens

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - LOVE

Leader: Love is a gift of God.

People: Love burns in our hearts.

Leader: Love is warmth in a world that is often bitter and cold.

People: In Jesus Christ, we receive God's gift of love.

(The candle is lit.) Leader: Let us pray:

People: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your unending love. Through Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

("*" invites all who are able to stand. **Bold** indicates read in unison.)

* HYMN: 265 (Red Hymnal) *The First Noel*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our Savior, with Mary, our spirits rejoice in you this day, for you look with favor on your people. You have done great things for us. You have scattered the proud and lifted up the lowly. You have filled the hungry with good things, and kept the promises made to our ancestors. Your mercy is known from generation to generation. And so, we praise and magnify your holy name and worship you as Creator, Christ and Spirit.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please remain in your seat and wave to your neighbors.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Although we have found love in Christ, we are a people divided against ourselves and against one another. We have not loved as you love us and we have too often been careless with our words, our bodies and how we treat others and your world. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us. Heal us, forgive us and set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* HYMN: 262 (Red Hymnal) *Away in a Manger*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: Open us, O God, to the Good News written in the scriptures. Open our hearts to recognize your presence with us. Open our minds so that we may know your direction for us. And may we say with Mary, "Let it be with me according to your Word." Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 5:2-5a

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:39-45

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth

* HYMN: 285 (Red Hymnal) *O Holy Night!*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN: 253 (Red Hymnal) *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

CALL TO OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of life and love, receive our gifts as tokens of our love for you and signs of our willingness to share that love in the world around us. Bless our lives as well as our gifts, so that we may be a blessing to others for the sake of the Christ Child, our Savior and our friend. Amen.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

DISMISSAL *Go Now in Peace*

POSTLUDE

THE WORSHIP IS OVER, LET THE SERVICE BEGIN

Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth

Pastor

Dr. Gary de Sesa

Director, Ministry of Music

Dr. Natalie Naylor

Clerk of Session

Robert Gilmore

Treasurer

Kita de Sesa is our Soprano soloist.

Refreshments Host today is Kita de Sesa.

The Poinsettias today are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by the members of the congregation and by Kathi Jones in honor of Rev. Stark G. Jones (1939-2024), Roslyn pastor, 1972-1996.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates

Tues, Dec. 24

5 PM Christmas Eve Service

Sat, Jan. 4

2 PM Emily Dyer Memorial

Sun, Jan. 26

11 AM Annual Meeting

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Family of Emily Dyer

Emma Steck

Helen Lockman

Cynthia Randall

Dawn and John de Sesa

Joyce Zanchelli

Sam Rizzo

Graziella Girardi

Emmie Shoch

Jeff Lovering

Dr. Ralph & Judy Mastrangelo & Family

John Nistico

Regina Maria

Elizabeth Bienz

Ray Peres

Jay Sikserz

Blake and Megan Stevason

Marco Martufi

Nico Barley

Mike Honovich

Chris Foti

Gerry Catalanello

Jenn Gallagher

Sylvia McAdams

Richie Miranda

Dennis Prager

Nora Shimmel

Wang Jin Pen

Aldin Monroe

Natalia Gorelova

All victims, hostages and their families in the Israeli conflict.

We pray for peace in the Middle East.

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

Second Reading

Luke 1:39-45

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

ANTHEM

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

- Stevens

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends:
Trav’ler, o’er yon mountain’s height, see that glory beaming tends.
Watchman, both its beauteous ray aught of joy or hope fore tell?
Trav’ler, yes it brings the day, promised day of Israel.
Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn:
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wand’rings cease;
Hie thee to thy quiet home.
Trav’ler lo, the Prince of Peace, lo, the Son of God is come!

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.